

MURPHY HOLDS CONFERENCE ON STATE TICKET

Democrats at Saratoga Await His Decision on Candidates.

PUZZLED BY ROOSEVELT

Hearst, Gerard, Walker, Osborn and Smith Continue to Nurse Booms.

From a Staff Correspondent of The Sun.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, July 21.—Charles F. Murphy, "Boss" of Tammany Hall, is here. He has room 213 at the United States Hotel, out of which, when he has consulted some humble Democrats as he may care to see, will come the Democratic candidate for Governor and the remainder of the ticket. This is the general feeling to-night among the leaders and delegates who have arrived here to attend the Democratic State convention, which will open at noon on Tuesday.

This is history likely to repeat itself. It will be remembered that at Rochester in 1910 Mr. Murphy, then the acknowledged State leader, sat in room 213 in the Hotel Seneca and dictated the nomination of John A. Dix for Governor.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Democrats in this State were never so much at sea, never so puzzled over the selection of a State ticket.

The selection of Col. Roosevelt into the situation has caused them to lose their bearings and they are drifting, uncertain as to what ought to be done and apparently incapable of making up their mind.

Up-State Against Hearst.

Mr. Murphy is perfectly capable of making up his mind at the right time and of making his mind up in a hurry. He has shown that ability in the past and stands ready to assume the role of dictator again if it becomes necessary. When he decided what was to be done the 450 delegates, three from each Assembly district, will gather in solemn session and endorse the Murphy slate.

It is probably perfectly true that the Tammany leader, after his experience with Gov. Sulzer, one of his selections, decided that never again would he attempt to name the ticket. The fact that he gave the up-State leaders fair warning that he did not want to have anything to do with the ticket. He told them to go ahead and pick the ticket and Tammany Hall would try to elect him. The Syracuse conference was organized. It held several meetings, established a preferred list of seven and then threw the whole job up to the unofficial convention.

Usually it is not safe to predict what the Murphy mind will be thirty-six hours before the start of a convention, but it seems safe to say, after a canvass of the leaders here, that William Randolph Hearst will not be picked. The up-State seems almost solidly against him, and while "C. F." is powerful enough probably to make them swallow even that bitter pill, he is far too wise to do so.

Look to Washington.

If Washington intervenes Mr. Murphy will probably permit them to pick the candidate and be responsible for his election. It is felt that if Col. Roosevelt should be the Republican candidate, the only thing to save the situation will be to make the campaign a personal fight for the nomination of President Wilson and his handling of the war.

If the President should care to draft Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Murphy would probably fall into this programme, but he would want to be thoroughly understood that the candidate was an Administration candidate and had the active support of the Washington leaders.

It is stated that Col. Roosevelt is the best of authority that so far Washington had given no indication of a desire to name the candidate. It has been reported on the part of the press that he remained silent on personal matters.

Soon after Mr. Murphy arrived an attempt was made to get in touch with the National Capital. He left the hotel in company with Norman D. Macdonald, former chairman of the State Committee and former National Committee member, with whom he has collaborated in many previous political undertakings. After they had a thorough understanding of the business of seeing local leaders will begin.

Mr. Murphy came on the train with Philip F. Donohue, Representative Thomas F. Smith and Alfred E. Smith. There was the usual buzzing and craning of necks when he came into the lobby of the Grand Union, and the customary attempt to get some line as to what was running through the Murphy mind. He did not say, but he has in the past years the "convention will decide" but he has few crisp replies were to this general effect.

The Hearst boom has been quiescent to-day. David Hirschfeld has been seen shoeing around mysteriously, but has said nothing for publication, strange as it may seem.

Thomas F. Gilleran, one of the old time workers in the Independence League, is on the ground, but if he is working out any deep laid plot on behalf of the publisher, it has not become apparent yet. The greater part of the extensive Hearst suite is so far vacant.

Mayor Walker's Stock Rooms.

Mayor Harry C. Walker of Birmingham is the outstanding figure to-night of all those who have been discussed by the Syracuse conference. That may be because he is on the ground and mixing in a good natured way with the delegates and leaders.

The Syracuse committee of forty-two will have a meeting to-morrow night, and then they hope to be able to decide on one name to present to the convention. It is certain they will make no selection until Murphy has made up his mind, and that may not be until late to-morrow night, maybe not then.

I am a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor," said Mayor Walker, "and my name will be voted on by the committee of forty-two. If I am not selected by them I shall still be a candidate for the nomination by the party at the convention. However, if I am not the choice of the convention I shall support whoever may be chosen by it."

More Talk of Gerard.

Mayor Walker said he had always been for woman suffrage, but dodged the prohibition issue.

"I think my views on that matter had better be stated later," he declared. "I would be inclined to follow the ideas of the party as enunciated in its platform on that matter."

James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, is being talked of by some of the leaders, but only in a way that expresses grave doubts as to his availability. When a group of the up-

State men heard that Harvey T. Ferris of Utica had swung around to Gerard, they laughed and one remarked: "Oh, yes, his name ought to be 'Ferris Wheel.' We want an up-State man, but if we can't get one we want Al Smith. He is the only Tammany man we would be satisfied with."

So far Mr. Murphy has made not the slightest reference to Smith in his talks with the other leaders. A word from him and the up-State men would swing in line behind Mr. Smith, but they say they cannot push his candidacy unless the Tammany "Boss" asks them to do so and expresses his conviction that such a candidacy would be successful.

Osborn Makes No Progress.

President Smith is willing and anxious to make the run, but he is a "good soldier" and does not intend to press his candidacy openly until he gets the word that he may do so.

So long as Mr. Murphy continues to oppose William Church Osborn there is no chance of his nomination. With the waning of the Hearst talk the Osborn stock has taken a slump. He has many friends up-State, but his candidacy was born in the fear of Hearst and because of his declared willingness to fight Mr. Hearst right through the primaries if necessary.

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Knows Colonel Is Waiting.

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William H. Fitzpatrick, Michael J. Walsh of Yonkers and Roscoe C. Irwin of Kingston are among the other up-State leaders who are putting up their names.

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DEMOCRATS HEAD TOWARD SARATOGA

Leaders Start for State Convention by Boat, Motor and Train.

AT SEA FOR CANDIDATE

Murphy Gives No Sign of Favoring Any Particular One for Governor.

As Republican delegates to the recent State convention continued drifting back into town yesterday Democratic delegates started for Saratoga to attend their unofficial State convention, which will open in Saratoga to-morrow. Many of the houses and their attendant braves motored out of the city, some went on the afternoon trains, others will start on the Albany night boats and still others will get away at the last moment this afternoon or to-night.

Before the candidates are named, Mr. Murphy will stand behind a man who is to sit in a convention to say in advance he would bolt the selection of that body.

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BENNETT OFFERS TO WITHDRAW FOR T. R.

"In the Fight to Stick" Unless Colonel Accepts G. O. P. Nomination.

WILL ABIDE BY PRIMARY

Insists Prohibition Should Be Submitted to Vote of People.

William M. Bennett, former State Senator, said yesterday he is in the fight for the Governorship to "stick" unless Col. Roosevelt decides to become the Republican candidate. What the consensus at Saratoga might be does not bother Mr. Bennett.

"I am in the fight to stick," he said yesterday, "unless Mr. Roosevelt decides to take the nomination. My petition with the necessary number of names is ready and I shall file it at the right time and begin my campaign as soon as Mr. Roosevelt makes his announcement."

"If he decides to stay out I shall go right ahead with arrangements for an automobile tour. I have no information as to the plans of my two opponents except that I understand their headquarters have been closed for the last four or five days."

Would Withdraw for T. R. "If Mr. Roosevelt should decide to obey the almost unanimous call of the party I shall be very glad to let his name substituted for mine. If Mr. Roosevelt does consent to run Mr. Whitman would have to withdraw, and in my opinion Mr. Roosevelt would sweep the State."

"I wish to make it clear that I shall abide by the primary. If defeated I will not run independently. Last fall in the Mayorship campaign I announced at Senator Calder's club that I would abide by the Republican primary for Mayor. I regard this as a fight within the party."

"I wonder if Gov. Whitman will take the same attitude or will he, if defeated, repudiate the primary as he did last fall in this city after he had voted in the Mayorship campaign?"

Wants Prohibition Vote. "I believe prohibition should be settled in this State by submitting the matter to a vote of the people. When the Senate I voted for the extension of the local option law under which the people by a direct vote would decide the question."

"As the campaign progresses I shall demand that each candidate make public before the primaries the amount of money received by him, the names of the givers and how it has been spent."

"Widely prevalent opinions are that Mr. Whitman is the candidate of the money crowd who are putting up their money in an attempt to get control of the State Government for investment in the stock market."

"I have sent to each of the sixty-three Assembly district leaders a letter asking them to permit me to speak at their clubhouses. I expect most of them to consent, but if some refuse, as did Samuel S. Koenig's leaders last fall, I will carry on an open air campaign in their districts."

"I expect to cover every county by August 1st."

Urges Care of Soldiers. The Young Men's Democratic League of New York held a special meeting yesterday to consider and to stampede the Republican Old Guard to stampede the convention for T. R. Some appreciation was voiced for Mr. Roosevelt's apparent refusal to fall in with the wishes of the Old Guard.

Gov. Whitman will begin his primary campaign to-day in Tonawanda, where a mass meeting has been arranged. That is the last of the anti-Whitman districts in the State and the Governor apparently intends to carry his fight for renomination into it as an opening gun.

That the civil service laws regarding and affecting the city and State of New York should be amended to give preference to be given to all soldiers, sailors and marines honorably discharged during or at the close of the present war.

That a commission or department be created for the study of all labor, business and financial conditions so that the city and State will be adequately prepared to meet the needs of the employment or welfare of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, and all female employees in active service with the United States Government in connection with the present war, on their return to civil life.

That the commission or department be created to study the needs of the State in order to alleviate and remedy any abnormal conditions that may arise at or after the termination of the war.

A delegation representing the league will take to-day to attend the Saratoga convention to-morrow.

COLONEL'S ANSWER COMING.

Will Announce Decision on Governorship in Few Days.

Within the next three or four days Col. Theodore Roosevelt will make known whether he will allow his name to be used in connection with the fight for the nomination for Governor on the Republican ticket.

The Colonel intends considering to-day the various questions which have been presented. They will take up his time for at least two or three days, after which may be expected his answer as to whether he will become a candidate.

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